

REMARKS

In a preliminary matter, claims 3, 7, and 9 are amended herein to improve the clarity and internal consistency of the claims, and claim 12 is amended to rectify an apparent typographical error. Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 3, 7, 9 and 12 are purely formal and unrelated to patentability. Accordingly, these amendments do not change the scope of the claims, nor do they introduce any new matter into the application.

In another formal matter, Applicants respectfully take issue with the requirement in the Official Action to provide "[n]ew corrected drawings." Applicants believe that drawings are not in fact necessary to the understanding of the invention. See, e.g., 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a). Moreover, the requirement in the Official Action appears to be procedurally improper. See, e.g., the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) at § 608.02.

Nevertheless, in order to further the prosecution of the application, and in order to avoid the inconvenience, however improper or unjustified, of preparing and filing a petition to reverse an abandonment, new drawings, FIGS. 1 and 2, are submitted herewith. FIG. 1 shows the laminated polymer 10 comprised of the two transparent adjacent polymer layers (11 and 12) separated by a transparent solid non-glass interlayer (13). FIG. 2 shows a cross-sectional view taken through the center of the transparent solid non-glass interlayer 13, showing half of the interlayer 13 and the polymer layer 11. It illustrates four perforations 14, 15, 16 and 17 in the interlayer 13 and shows four elements or devices 18, 19, 20 and 21 contained in the interlayer 13. A basis for FIGS. 1 and 2 may be found in the specification. Accordingly, it is believed that these figures introduce no new matter into the application.

Turning to substantive matters, the Official Action issued on May 23, 2006, has rejected claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,416,622, issued to Engfer et al. (hereinafter "Engfer"). Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Engfer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,969,475, issued to Friend et al. (hereinafter "Friend"). Finally, claims 9 to 12 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Engfer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,803,579, issued to Turnbull et al. (hereinafter "Turnbull").

These are the sole substantive reasons set forth in the Official Action why the present application should not be allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to specify that the laminated polymer comprises three adjacent layers, and that each pair of adjacent layers is separated by an interlayer or an air cavity containing a device. Claim 2 is amended to comport its dependent form with newly amended claim 1. A basis for these amendments may be found in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, for example. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no new matter is introduced into the application by these amendments.

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 are made without prejudice. Specifically, Applicants intend to reintroduce the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 as originally filed later in the prosecution, or in a continuing application.

Newly amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Engfer, because Engfer does not identically set forth every element of the claimed invention. Specifically, Engfer does not teach or suggest a laminated polymer having at least three adjacent layers of transparent polymers, in which each pair of adjacent layers are separated by an interlayer or an air cavity containing a device. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of newly amended claim 1 for anticipation, citing Engfer, be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is well established that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be made out unless every element of the claimed invention is taught or suggested by the cited references. As is noted above, Engfer does not teach or suggest every element of Applicants' claimed invention, as embodied in claim 1 as amended herein. Nor does either of Turnbull or Friend teach or suggest a laminated polymer having at least three adjacent layers of transparent

polymers, in which each pair of adjacent layers are separated by an interlayer or an air cavity containing a device. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of the obviousness of newly amended claim 1 cannot be made out over Engfer in view of Friend or Turnbull.

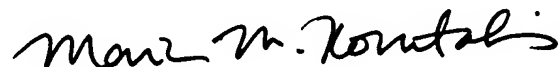
Claims 2 through 15 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. It follows by statute that these claims are also not anticipated and not obvious, for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended herein. Accordingly, Applicants further respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2 to 15 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Conclusion

A Petition for an Extension of Time for two months and the required fee for the extension are filed concurrently herewith. Should any further fee be required in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fee, or render any credit, to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that pending claims 1 to 15 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. In closing, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (302) 892-1004 to conduct any business that may advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: FIGS. 1 and 2 (one sheet)